

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) ~~The toner container according to claim 1,~~ A toner container comprising:

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to
discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and
the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part
of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured
to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction
parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said
passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing
unit using the nozzle,

wherein the receptacle ~~holder~~ holding member has an engaging section having a plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings configured to engage with a plurality of positioning-pins of the image forming apparatus that stick out along the direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings are disposed at positions shifted from a center of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) ~~The toner container according to claim 1,~~ A toner container comprising:

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to
discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and
the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part
of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured
to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction
parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said
passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing
unit using the nozzle,

wherein the receptacle holder ~~holding member~~ has an engaging section having a protruding section configured to engage with a recessed section of the image forming apparatus that is recessed along the direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the protruding section is arranged at a position shifted from a center of a circumference of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) ~~The toner container according to claim 4,~~ A toner container comprising:

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein

the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and

the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing unit using the nozzle,

the receptacle holder includes a toner storage section configured to store the toner before the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holder, and

said passage is connected to the toner storage section,

the toner container further comprising:

a connecting passage that connects ~~the insertion~~ said passage and the toner storage section of the receptacle holder ~~holding member~~,

wherein ~~the insertion~~ said passage, the connecting passage, and the toner storage section are positioned in a line in this order in a direction orthogonal to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 6, wherein the connecting passage is provided such that it extends straightly in the direction orthogonal to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 7, wherein the connecting passage has a taper that tapers from the toner storage section to said ~~the insertion~~ passage.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 6, further comprising:

a shutter ~~[[member]]~~ that closes an opening on the side of ~~the insertion~~ said passage of the connecting passage, the shutter ~~[[member]]~~ being slidable between a first position that closes the opening and a second position that opens the opening.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 9, further comprising:

a seal ~~sealing member~~ that seals a gap between ~~the pipe insertion section~~ said passage and the shutter ~~[[member]]~~ in ~~the insertion~~ said passage, the ~~sealing member~~ seal being fixed to disposed against an inner wall of ~~the insertion~~ said passage of ~~the pipe insertion section~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 10, wherein ~~said sealing member seal~~ is a first seal ~~sealing member~~, said toner container further comprising:

a second seal ~~sealing member~~ on an opposite side of the connecting passage as said first ~~sealing member seal~~.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 11, wherein the shutter ~~[[member]]~~ has a diameter which is equal to a diameter of the ~~pipe member~~ nozzle.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, further comprising:

the toner which is accommodated in the toner receptacle.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 13, wherein the toner is a refilled toner that is refilled into the toner receptacle after the toner receptacle becomes empty upon using the toner in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 13 wherein the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder comprises:

a projection having a shape which indicates a color of the toner in the toner receptacle.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) ~~The toner container according to claim 1,~~ A toner container comprising:

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to
discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and
the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part
of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured
to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction
parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said
passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing
unit using the nozzle,

wherein a connecting passage connects ~~the insertion~~ said passage and a toner storage section in the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder, wherein the toner is sent from the

cylindrical toner receptacle to the toner storage section of the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder through the toner discharging path, then the toner drops to the connecting passage, flows into the nozzle pipe member through the connecting passage to be discharged out of the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder, and an airtightness between ~~the insertion~~ said passage on a downstream side in a direction of transportation of toner from the connecting passage and the nozzle pipe member inserted into ~~the insertion~~ said passage is superior than an airtightness between the toner receptacle on an upstream side in the direction of transportation of toner from the connecting passage and the receptacle holder ~~holding member~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) ~~The toner container according to claim 1,~~ A toner container comprising:

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to
discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and
the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part
of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured
to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction
parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said
passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing
unit using the nozzle,

the toner container further comprising:

a porous ~~sealing member~~ seal made of a porous material provided between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holder ~~holding member~~; and

a non-porous seal ~~sealing-member~~ made of a non-porous material provided between ~~the insertion~~ said passage and a position at which the nozzle ~~pipe-member~~ is received, wherein an airtightness between ~~the insertion~~ said passage and the ~~pipe-member~~ nozzle is superior to an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holder ~~holding-member~~.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 16, wherein the receptacle holder ~~holding-member~~ includes:

an engaging section configured to engage with the toner receptacle; and ~~the pipe insertion-section~~ said passage, which is configured to fit to the engaging section,

wherein an airtightness between the engaging section and said passage ~~the pipe insertion-section~~ is superior to an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holder ~~holding-member~~.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 18, further comprising:

a porous ~~sealing-member~~ seal made of a porous material provided between the toner receptacle and the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder; and

a non-porous ~~sealing-member~~ seal made of a non-porous material provided between the engaging section and said passage ~~the pipe insertion-section~~, and therefore, an airtightness between the engaging section and said passage ~~the pipe insertion-section~~ is superior to an airtightness between the toner receptacle and the receptacle holder ~~holding-member~~.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 17, wherein the porous ~~sealing member~~ seal is made of an elastic material, and the toner receptacle engaged with the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder jams in the porous ~~sealing member~~ seal.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a toner image forming unit configured to form a toner image on a recording medium;
a toner replenishing unit including a ~~pipe member~~ nozzle;
a toner container that accommodates toner to be supplied to the toner image forming unit and is detachable from the image forming apparatus; and
a suction unit that sucks the toner in the toner container and carries the toner to the toner image forming unit, wherein
the toner container includes

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior, and
a receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein

the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharge path configured to discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder, and

the receptacle holder ~~holding member~~ includes a ~~pipe insertion section having an insertion~~ passage configured to receive the ~~pipe member~~ nozzle, the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder configured to be ~~fixed~~ attached to the image forming apparatus, and ~~the insertion~~ said passage extending along a direction parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the receptacle holder includes a toner storage section configured to store the toner before the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holder,
said passage is connected to the toner storage section,

the suction unit sucks the toner in the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder through the nozzle ~~pipe member~~ inserted into ~~the insertion~~ said passage, and

~~the pipe insertion section~~ said passage is connected with the ~~pipe member~~ nozzle and functions to connect an interior of the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder to the toner replenishing unit,

the toner container further comprising:

a connecting passage that connects said passage and the toner storage section of the receptacle holder,

wherein said passage, the connecting passage, and the toner storage section are positioned in a line in this order in a direction orthogonal to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 21, wherein:

the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder has an engaging section having a plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings configured to engage with a plurality of positioning-pins of the image forming apparatus that stick out along the direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the plurality of positioning-pin receiving openings are disposed at positions shifted from a center of a circumference of the cylindrical toner receptacle,

the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder includes a toner storage section in which the toner is stored before being discharged out of the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder, and

~~the insertion~~ said passage extends along a direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis ~~of rotation~~ of the toner receptacle, and is connected to the toner storage section,

and while mounting the toner container on to the image forming apparatus, the engaging section of the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder is engaged with the plurality of positioning-pins before the ~~pipe member~~ nozzle is inserted into ~~the insertion~~ said passage.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) A method of recycling, ~~a toner container including a toner receptacle that accommodates toner and includes a toner discharging path through which the toner is discharged out of the toner receptacle, and a receptacle holding member holding the toner receptacle, wherein the toner is sent from the toner receptacle to the receptacle holding member through the toner discharging path, after the toner in the toner receptacle is sent to the receptacle holding member from the path, the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holding member and then the toner is refilled in the toner receptacle, wherein~~

~~the receptacle holding member includes a pipe insertion section having an insertion passage configured to receive a pipe member which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus configured to be fixed to the image forming apparatus, and is formed such that the insertion passage extends along a direction parallel to a direction of longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the pipe insertion section is connected with the pipe member and functions to connect a space of the toner receptacle in which the toner is stored and the toner replenishing unit, the method comprising:~~

~~creating a hole in [[the]] a toner receptacle for refilling the toner, the toner receptacle being cylindrical, having an interior, and being a part of a toner container, the toner container including~~

~~a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein~~

the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and

the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing unit using the nozzle,

the receptacle holder includes a toner storage section configured to store the toner before the toner is discharged out of the receptacle holder, and

said passage is connected to the toner storage section,

the toner container further comprising:

a connecting passage that connects said passage and the toner storage section of the receptacle holder,

wherein said passage, the connecting passage, and the toner storage section are positioned in a line in this order in a direction orthogonal to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle,

refilling the toner in the toner receptacle through the hole; and
closing the hole.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises boring the hole.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating a hole on the bottom surface of the rear end of the toner receptacle.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating a hole on the bottom surface of the rear end of the toner receptacle.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating the hole on the peripheral surface of the toner receptacle.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the creating a hole comprises creating the hole on the peripheral surface of the toner receptacle.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by welding a resin material around the periphery of the hole.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by welding a resin material around periphery of the hole.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by placing a sealing film over the hole.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:
closing the hole which has been created by placing a sealing film over the hole.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, further comprising:
peeling the sealing film from the hole.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
peeling the sealing film from the hole.

Claim 38 (Canceled)

Claim 39 (Currently Amended) ~~The toner container according to claim 38,~~ A toner container comprising:

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to
discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and
the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part
of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured
to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction
parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said
passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing
unit using the nozzle,
the toner discharging path includes a cylindrical portion whose diameter is smaller
than a diameter of a main body of the toner receptacle,
the toner container further comprising:

a gear protruding through an outer surface of the cylindrical portion, a rotation of the gear causing toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged from the interior of the cylindrical toner receptacle to the receptacle ~~holding member~~ holder.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 39, wherein the cylindrical toner receptacle comprises:

a protrusion in a form of a screw which protrudes from an outer side towards an inner side of the cylindrical toner receptacle, and the rotation of the gear causing toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged due to a rotation of the cylindrical toner receptacle and the protrusion thereof.

Claim 41 (Canceled)

Claim 42 (Currently Amended) ~~The toner container according to claim 1,~~ A toner container comprising:

a cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior; and
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to
discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and
the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part
of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured
to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction
parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said
passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing
unit using the nozzle,

wherein the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder comprises:

a projection at an outer circumference of the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder at a cylindrical portion of the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder having a largest diameter, the projection extending outward from the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder and along a direction parallel to a length of the cylindrical toner receptacle, the projection configured to indicate a color of toner corresponding to the toner container.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 42, wherein the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder further comprises:

a cylindrical portion having a diameter smaller than the largest diameter under which is the ~~pipe insertion section~~ said passage.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 42, further comprising:

a gear disposed inside the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder, the gear having a diameter which is less than said largest diameter.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 44, wherein: rotation of the gear causes toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged to the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended) The toner container according to claim 45, wherein: rotation of the gear causes toner in the cylindrical toner receptacle to be discharged to the receptacle ~~holding-member~~ holder by causing rotation of the cylindrical toner receptacle.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented) The toner container according to claim 39, further comprising:

a protrusion at said other surface of the cylindrical portion configured to indicate a color of toner within the toner container.

Claim 48 (New) The toner container according to claim 2, wherein the receptacle holder rotatably holds the toner receptacle.

Claim 49 (New) The toner container according to claim 48, wherein an axis of rotation of the toner receptacle extends along a direction parallel to a direction of said passage.

Claim 50 (New) The toner container according to claim 2, further comprising:
the toner which is accommodated in the toner receptacle.

Claim 51 (New) The toner container according to claim 50, wherein the toner is a refilled toner that is refilled into the toner receptacle after the toner receptacle becomes empty upon using the toner in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 52 (New) The toner container according to claim 3, wherein the receptacle holder rotatably holds the toner receptacle.

Claim 53 (New) The toner container according to claim 52, wherein an axis of rotation of the toner receptacle extends along a direction parallel to a direction of said passage.

Claim 54 (New) The toner container according to claim 6, wherein the receptacle holder rotatably holds the toner receptacle.

Claim 55 (New) The toner container according to claim 54, wherein an axis of rotation of the toner receptacle extends along a direction parallel to a direction of said passage.

Claim 56 (New) The toner container according to claim 6, further comprising:
the toner which is accommodated in the toner receptacle.

Claim 57 (New) The toner container according to claim 56, wherein the toner is a refilled toner that is refilled into the toner receptacle after the toner receptacle becomes empty upon using the toner in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 58 (New) The toner container according to claim 56 wherein the receptacle holder comprises:
a projection having a shape which indicates a color of the toner in the toner receptacle.

Claim 59 (New) The toner container according to claim 42, wherein the receptacle holder rotatably holds the toner receptacle.

Claim 60 (New) The toner container according to claim 59, wherein an axis of rotation of the toner receptacle extends along a direction parallel to a direction of said passage.

Claim 61 (New) The toner container according to claim 42, further comprising:
the toner which is accommodated in the toner receptacle.

Claim 62 (New) The toner container according to claim 61, wherein the toner is a refilled toner that is refilled into the toner receptacle after the toner receptacle becomes empty upon using the toner in the image forming apparatus.

Claim 63 (New) A method of recycling, comprising:
creating a hole in a cylindrical toner receptacle for refilling the toner, the cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior and being a part of a toner container, the toner container further including
a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein
the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and
the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing unit using the nozzle,

wherein the receptacle holder has an engaging section having a protruding section configured to engage with a recessed section of the image forming apparatus that is recessed along the direction parallel to the direction of the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the protruding section is arranged at a position shifted from a center of a circumference of the cylindrical toner receptacle,

refilling the toner in the toner receptacle through the hole; and

closing the hole.

Claim 64 (New) A method of recycling, comprising:

creating a hole in a cylindrical toner receptacle for refilling the toner, the cylindrical toner receptacle having an interior and being a part of a toner container, the toner container further including

a receptacle holder configured to hold the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein the cylindrical toner receptacle includes a toner discharging path configured to discharge toner from the interior to the receptacle holder, and

the receptacle holder includes a passage configured to receive a nozzle which is a part of a toner replenishing unit in an image forming apparatus, the receptacle holder configured to be attached to the image forming apparatus, said passage extending along a direction parallel to a direction of a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical toner receptacle, wherein said passage is configured to connect an interior of the receptacle holder to the toner replenishing unit using the nozzle,

wherein the receptacle holder comprises:

a projection at an outer circumference of the receptacle holder at a cylindrical portion of the receptacle holder having a largest diameter, the projection extending outward from the receptacle holder and along a direction parallel to a length of the cylindrical toner

receptacle, the projection configured to indicate a color of toner corresponding to the toner container,

refilling the toner in the toner receptacle through the hole; and
closing the hole.